

**I. Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

~~The invention can be summarized as follows. The present invention provides~~  
a sample lab for retaining a sample during spectrophotometric analysis~~[[.]]~~ includes  
The tab ~~comprises~~ a base plate, a sample well, ~~at least one drainage notch for draining~~  
~~excess sample~~ and a cover plate. The sample tab may also ~~comprise~~ include one, or  
more than one overflow opening for draining excess sample, and an overflow ring  
channel to retain the excess sample that drains from the sample well.

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 3-5, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a Continuation-in-Part ~~Application of United States~~  
~~application~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/958,933, filed on May 11, 2000,  
now U.S. Patent No. 6,582,964, issued on June 24, 2003, which is a National Stage  
Entry of PCT Application No. PCT/CA00/00549, filed on May 11, 2000, claiming  
which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/133,876, filed on  
May 12, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 22-29 with the following amended paragraph:

The sample tab as described herein may be used within a spectrophotometer using standard methods as known in the art, for example as disclosed in U.S. 5,846,492 U.S. 6,268,910, WO 98/39634 (all of which are incorporated herein by reference) These references disclose the spectrophotometric analysis of a biological fluid within a plastic or polyethylene container, for example blood bag tubing (U.S. 6,268,910; 6,268,910), or a pipette tip (WO 98/39634; U.S. 5,846,492). However, it is to be understood that the sample tab as described herein may be readily adapted for other analytical uses including microscopic analysis.